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PATENTS{PRIVATE }

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)	
)	
Haiyou Wang et al.)	Art Unit 1754
)	
Serial No. 10/669,956)	Before the Examiner
)	
Filed: September 23, 2003)	Cam N. Nguyen
)	
CO-FREE HYDROGEN FROM DECOMPOSITION OF METHANE		

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D. C. 20231

RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the First Office Action dated December 08, 12004. Please enter the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application and all are under rejection.

First Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-5 & 14-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choudary et al.(Choudhary) in view of Richter et al (Richter).

Examiner's Position

It is the Examiner's position that Choudhary discloses a process for catalyzing a conversion of methane in a reactant mixture by passing over a composite catalyst at a gas hourly space velocity, pressure, and a reaction temperature of about 445°C to produce synthesis gas (H₂ and CO) etc., and the catalyst composite consists of transitional and alkaline earth metal oxides having the formula: T_mAO_n, wherein T is a transition element selected from Ni, Co, Pd, Ru, Rh,